

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-13, and 16-25 are currently pending in the application. This amendment after allowance proposes the:

amendment of claims 1 and 19; and
cancellation of claims 4 and 5.

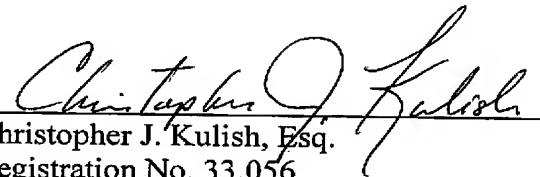
The proposed amendments to claim 1 (step “(d)” and “receiving offers”) and claim 19 (“second determining means” and “receiving means”) are believed to correct formal matters that do not change the scope of the claims. With respect to the “receiving” related amendments of claims 1 and 19, please see the text of claim 11 prior to the Examiner’s amendment.

The proposed cancellation of claims 4 and 5 relates to the required election between the reverse auction specie and the forward auction specie set forth in the Office Action dated March 6, 2009. In response to Action, the specie relating to the reverse auction was elected. Subsequently, an Examiner’s amendment to claim 1 was entered that incorporated the subject matter of dependent claims 11, 14, and 15 into claim 1. Dependent claim 11 is directed to reverse auction involving two or more suppliers and a buyer. As such, the incorporation of dependent claim 11 into claim 1 rendered claim 1 non-generic to both the reverse and forward auction species. Claims 4 and 5 are directed to a forward auction and should not have been rejoined. Cancellation of claims 4 and 5 is requested. Further, the applicant requests that the Office acknowledge that rejoinder was inappropriate and that the restriction/election requirement is maintained.

The amendment after allowance is being filed before or with the payment of the issue fee. If this amendment is being submitted with the payment of the issue fee on the date that the issue fee is due and the issue fee is not received with this amendment, please debit Deposit Account 50-4902 for the required issue fee and any publication fee.

No claim related fees are believed to be due with this response. In the event any such fees are due, please debit Deposit Account 50-4902.

Respectfully submitted,

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